

LA County Weed Management Area Report on Best Management Practices for Vegetation Management

Presented by
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Why did we decide to prepare a report on Vegetation Management BMP's

- The LA County WMA supports integrated vegetation management plans
- Growing community concern regarding the use of herbicides
- Conflicting information regarding herbicides
- Growing trend to ban the use of herbicides
- Increased cost to manage vegetation when faced with budget and staffing constraints

How did we start

- Agreed the report should educate individuals, businesses, government agencies, politicians and all types of property owners on all of the currently known methods of vegetation management, effectiveness of each technique, cost, safety, and potential environmental impacts for all methods.

How did we start (continued)

- Agreed the report needed to cover three separate but related topics of integrated vegetation management :
 - vegetation control methods
 - the pro's and con's of each method
 - the sites or types of land use where these methods are suitable.

How did we start (continued)

- Formed a committee to write the report
- Agreed to allow anybody on the committee. We had representatives from; California Dept of Pesticide Regulation, California Dept of Food & Agriculture, Cal Poly Pomona, UC Co-operative Extension, LA County Department of Public Works, LA County Agricultural Commission, Caltrans, USDA Forest Service, Team Arrundo, Southern Californian's Against Toxin's, and Monsanto
- Agreed to research and address all concerns or issues. When needed, agreed to disagree

What did we learn

- Both sides believe the reports/studies on herbicides the others reference are based on bad science
- Both sides have success and failure stories
- Needed to make the report based on facts
- California is the most regulated state regarding the use of herbicides. Appendix A explains how pesticides are regulated in California
- California Department Of Pesticide Regulation must investigate each incident or report of a problem with pesticides

What did we learn (continued)

- The process was educational
- Most problems with the use of herbicides are due to non-regulated users
 - Private property owners
- There are positive and negative effects related to each of the most commonly used vegetation management processes (herbicides, mowing, tillage, etc.)

Vegetation Management Methods

- Prevention
- Eradication
- Control
- Restoration

Vegetation Management Methods

- Prevention
 - The goal of prevention is to prevent establishment of unwanted vegetation in areas that are currently lacking it

Vegetation Management Methods

- Eradication
 - This is the total elimination of a plant from a site or area. Eradication methods commonly include a combination of approaches including: physical, cultural, biological, and chemical removal

Vegetation Management Methods

- Control
 - Control includes actions taken to reduce or suppress weeds or vegetation in specific sites or locations. Control methods also include physical, cultural, biological, and chemical methods

Vegetation Management Methods

- Control
 - Physical Methods – hand pulling, hoeing, fire, flaming, steaming, foaming, tillage, mowing, mulches, solarization, structural
 - Cultural-planting native or desirable plants. Using living mulches and nurse crops

Vegetation Management Methods

- Control
 - Biological Control- using a living organism to manage the population of a plant species
 - Chemical Control
 - Selective vs. non-selective
 - Pre-emergent vs. post-emergent
 - Contact vs. systemic

Vegetation Management Methods

- Restoration

- The goal of ecological restoration is to return a site to a prior condition, typically one less disturbed by human influences. Restoration to this prior condition may be effective in preventing establishment of unwanted vegetation or in promoting beneficial vegetation.

Components of a Vegetation Management Plan

- The need or reason for vegetation management – i.e. a specific need or target problem species
- The areas and acreage to be treated
- Method(s) of treatment and reasons for methods at the particular site
- Timeline for treatment
- Follow-up and monitoring

What were the solutions

- Need to have community outreach and education
- Need to have community input
- Present options that might be political
 - Pass ordinances that make property owner responsible for vegetation management
 - Create special vegetation management districts
 - Create volunteer opportunities - “adopt a highway”

Where are we at now?

- The report has been completed and was approved by the LA County Weed Management Area on September 29, 2005.
- The report is available at <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>, then go to the Invasive Weeds tab on the left side of the screen, then go to the Download “BMP for Vegetation Management” tab

Where are we now? (continued)

- We have agreed that this is a living document that will need to be updated/revised.
- We are working to obtain grants to proceed with pilot projects to develop accurate costs and measurable efficiencies for various means of vegetation control.
- We would like to obtain more examples of vegetation management plans (we currently have one for Roadsides and Wildland Management)

**If you have questions or would
like to contribute information to
future updates of this report
please contact**

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